

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-44 (Canceled).

45. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:
a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a bottom wall; a first set of sidewalls that define a first tubular portion with the bottom wall; and a second set of sidewalls, ~~which are longer than the first set of sidewalls,~~ that define a second tubular portion with the bottom wall, the second tubular portion arranged end to end with the first tubular portion, the first tubular portion having an effective diameter that is less than an effective diameter the second tubular portion; and
a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free, for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall,
wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion ~~is not attached to the contact section when the female electrical terminal is mated with a complementary male terminal.~~

46. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 45, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge that is positioned outside of the contact section.

47. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 45, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

48. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:
a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a first tubular portion comprising a first set of sidewalls; and a second tubular portion comprising a second set of sidewalls and being arranged end to end with the

first tubular portion; wherein geometrically central axes of the first and second tubular portions are misaligned and the first tubular portion has an effective diameter that is less than an effective diameter of the second tubular portion; and

a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free, for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall,

wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion ~~is not attached to the contact section when the female electrical terminal is mated with a complementary male terminal.~~

49. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 48, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge that resides outside of the contact section.

50. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 48, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

51. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 48, wherein an opening is defined at an interface between the first tubular portion and the second tubular portion; and wherein a portion of the flexible contact element extends into the opening.

52. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:
a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a first tubular portion comprising a first set of sidewalls; and a second tubular portion comprising a second set of sidewalls and being arranged end to end with the first tubular portion; wherein the first tubular portion has an effective diameter that is a different size than that of the second tubular portion; and

a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free, for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall,

wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion ~~is not attached to the contact section when the female electrical terminal is mated with a complementary male terminal.~~

53. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 52, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

54. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:
a contact section including a set of converging sidewalls that define an insertion pathway for a complementary male terminal, the insertion pathway having a diameter that is smaller than a tubular portion that is proximate the set of converging sidewalls; and

a flexible contact element partially disposed within the contact section in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free, for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with a contact section bottom wall;

wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to a leading edge of the flexible contact element, and

wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the set of converging sidewalls ~~is not attached to the contact section when the female electrical terminal is mated with a complementary male terminal.~~

55-58. (Canceled).